Charlie Berntsen

History, 7

Hello class, my name is Mr. Berntsen and I will be your substitute for Mr. Holliday. Today we will be learning about New France. Objectives…take the time to right these down. (Say them out load) Students will be able to locate New France on a map, and students will be able to state a fur that was very valuable to the French.

The French first decided to build settlements in the Americas, during the time period of the 1600. In approximately 1603, the explorer by the name of Samuel de Champlain made the first of many expeditions along the St. Lawrence River. (Picture). This is a picture of Samuel de Champlain. While traveling, he created a settlement that was remembered for the ages… He was the founder of Quebec. Quebec was a small town located on the banks of the St. Lawrence River. (picture) This is the city of Quebec, and as you can see it’s located along the St. Lawrence River.With one settlement made, Champlain couldn’t stop his voyages. Quebec was his base, as he ventured farther east for more land to claim for the French. He explored a large lake that was near (present day) New York, and Vermont that bears his name. His expeditions and travels had massive influence in a region that lasted 150 years… New France.

New France is the blue shaded region on the map. The red is the 13 English colonies. (This includes Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Georgia, the Carolinas, Exc.)

Trade, was a very important factor in the process of expansion. While the French were colonizing in the Americas, they met with many of the local Indians and started to trade. Unlike the Spaniards (who captured and made Indians slaves), the French, kindly traded goods with them. A very profitable item was different types of fur, but one fur that was the most valuable was the beaver fur. With this incredibly soft fur, they were able to make the beaver hat. The beaver hat kept you warm, and was also the “style”, back in the day. (Pictures). This is a picture of a beaver hat, and as you can see there are two straps that hang down, with these straps, you’re able to tie the hat up, like this. The French were astonished that the Indians were around so many beavers, because in France they hardly saw any. Champlain was able to convince the local natives to bring their valuable furs, and pelts to the nearby trading posts in Montreal, and Quebec City. (Picture) This is a picture of Quebec City, and as you can see it on the edge of the St. Lawrence River.

The French term of Coureurs de bois, is runners of the woods. These (merchants) were brave employees of the fur and pelt industries. They traveled in very large canoes, to find Indian tribes to trade with. Many of these merchants would marry Indian women, and have families. Even though they were not actual Indian tribal members, they still lived and traveled with the tribes.

In 1673, Father Marquette, and Luis Joliet (who was a French Canadian trader), travelled along the banks of Lake Michigan, and farther West, untill they reached the Mississippi River. The month after they found the Mississippi River was used traveling down it. Thinking that this route was the North West Passage, they were sadly mistaken. In July, they reached the Mississippi junction with the Arkansas River. (Picture) Quiz time. If this is Marquette, and this is Joliet, what river are they going down?

Even though Marqutte and Joliet did not finish their expedition, it still helped the French, and informed them with a route the center of the Americas. Because of they were unable to finish their quest, the still had one hope…La Salle (AKA Rene Robert Cavelier). (Picture). This is a picture of La Salle. La Salle finished the journey down the Mississippi valley to the Gulf of Mexico, and named the region close to it, Louisiana in honor of the French king, Louis XIV (the fourteenth). (Picture) This is a picture of Louis the fourteenth

(Picture) this was Marquette and Joliets expedition, they stoped here, and it was finished by La Salled from here to here.

I hope that this topic, of New France, Interested you and that you learned from it. So to test that, let’s all go back to the objective. Which fur was very valuable to the French? (Picture).